

MONTHLY SORTIE GOALS		
961st Airborne Air Control Squadron		
Monthly flying-hour contract	15.5	
Hours flown	10.7	
Monthly offset	-4.8	
33rd Rescue Squadron		
Monthly flying-hour contract	233.0	
Hours flown	271.4	
Monthly offset	38.4	
909th Air Refueling Squadron		
Monthly flying-hour contract	100.0	
Hours flown	96.8	
Monthly offset	-3.4	
44th Fighter Squadron		
Monthly sortie contract	63.0	
Sorties flown	56.0	
Monthly offset	-7.0	
67th Fighter Squadron		
Monthly sortie contract	47.0	
Sorties flown	41.0	
Monthly offset	-6.0	
Source: 18th MOS/MXOOP, as of Jan. 11		

THE

KADENA

SHOGUN

Vol. 19, No. 1

Kadena Air Base, Japan

Friday, Jan. 14, 2005

WEEKEND WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and gust winds NW winds @ 10-15 knots
High: 59 Low: 55

SATURDAY: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers NW winds @ 10-12 knots
High: 59 Low: 54

SUNDAY: Mostly Cloudy NW winds @ 10-12 knots
High: 61 Low: 59

FRIDAY MORNING'S COMMUNITY BANK EXCHANGE RATES
BUYING: \$1=¥102 SELLING: ¥107=\$1

Unified Assistance

Kadena delivers first U.S. humanitarian aid to tsunami struck nations

By Maj. Mike Paoli
18th Wing Public Affairs

Navy patrol and reconnaissance aircraft operating from Kadena provided the first U.S. military response to Southeast Asia after a Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunamis devastated coastal areas, killing more than 270,000 people and leaving 5 million homeless.

Soon after, Air Force tankers from Kadena carried the first U.S. ground relief support into the region, all part of Operation Unified Assistance.

"This may be the largest relief effort in the history of the world," said Lt. Col. John Quinn, 18th Operations Group deputy commander, during an initial planning meeting. Colonel Quinn described the developing 'hub and spoke' concept, in which U.S. aircrews would "fly into three strategic bases that 'spider out' to lots of smaller locations."

That's exactly the way it worked out. Five C-5 Galaxies are now staging out of Kadena for the duration of the relief effort, carrying troops, supplies and equipment into primary airfields in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia. These, in addition to regular C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster missions, have carried more than three million pounds of cargo from Kadena to the disaster area since New Year's Day.

"From fuels and cryogenics, to trans—getting our crews back and forth—and in many cases maintenance, we're very heavily dependent upon 18th Wing support," said Col. Jeff Worthing, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron commander. "The wing's contribution to our



Airmen from the 33rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Kadena carefully guide an HH-60 Pave Hawk from the 33rd Rescue Squadron as it is loaded into a C-17 Globemaster from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., Jan. 3. Read more on the 33rd RQS and 353rd Special Operations Group in next week's *Kadena Shogun Newspaper*.

mission has been terrific."

Once in-country, supplies are loaded onto U.S. aircraft based out of Uthphao, Thailand; Colombo, Sri Lanka; and Langkawi, Malaysia for transport to needy populations in outlying and hard-to-reach rural areas, including those in hardest-hit Indonesia. More than 560 Kadena Airmen and Sailors currently support these efforts from deployed

locations.

"The mission is to minimize further loss of life and mitigate human suffering," said 18th Wing Vice Commander Col. Rick Zink. "We're flying on the wing of international aid agencies—we're not the lead. But the infrastructure and architecture we have created to help these people is truly impressive."

U.S. military response began Dec. 27 when Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron Eight at Kadena launched the first of seven P-3 Orions to Uthphao and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The P-3 crews flew initial damage assessment missions and began assisting in search and rescue efforts.

See RELIEF, Page 4

Simple energy actions save taxpayer dollars

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
18th Wing Public Affairs

Officials from the 18th Civil Engineer Group recently announced a plan to reduce energy usage by 30 percent this year.

"Energy supports each of us in our daily lives and conservation is just wise use of that energy," said Lt. Col. James Allen, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "We can conserve by doing simple things around our residents such as turning lights off, computers, televisions, and other appliances when not in use."

Ted Cleberg, 18th CES chief of utilities and energy management, added that switching to

low flow showerheads and compact fluorescent light bulbs also help conserve energy. Both are available at Eagle Hardware self-help.

At work, Mr. Cleberg said its the responsibility of workers to tell facility managers about instances of wasted energy.

"If you notice a leaky faucet, continually running water or excessive exterior lighting, report it to them," he said.

According to 18th CES officials, the energy bill for Kadena and all military family housing is \$72 million annually – which covers electricity, water and diesel fuel used to heat water.

Mr. Cleberg noted residents reduced energy use by 19 percent

last year (measured against 1985 power usage). This year, he said it will take the efforts of every base resident to reach the aggressive 30 percent goal.

Alfred Alderete, 18th CES energy manager, said last year during the drought, Kadena and military family housing residents reduced water use 7.4 percent and saved \$208,000. During the Kadena summer energy conservation campaign, residents reduced electricity use by 7.1 percent saving the Air Force \$556,000.

For more information, or to give new ideas on energy conservation, call Mr. Cleberg or Alderete at 634-7255 or 634-7256.

18th CEG competes for AF award Monday

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
18th Wing Public Affairs

The 18th Civil Engineer Group will compete against two other Air Force CE units for the chance to be named the best in the Air Force.

On Monday, four inspectors from higher headquarters will visit Kadena to evaluate the accomplishments, as well as, the customer services provided by the 18th CEG.

Col. Juan Ibanez, 18th Civil Engineer Group commander, said his staff is ready to showcase their work.

"I'm very confident," he said. "We have been polishing our itinerary to ensure our presentations accurately and coherently capture our accomplishments over the past year, and doing some general house-keeping to ensure the base looks good. We have a



Wingman on the job or at play

Airmen must safeguard each other on Kadena, while others deploy to disaster relief

By Col. Richard Zink
18th Wing vice commander

Happy New Year Team Kadena! Brig. Gen. Jouas was prophetic in the Shogun Year in Review issue when he said, "...the new year will provide its own share of challenges." It didn't take us long to find the first challenge, and it's a major one!

Working with an extensive international affiliation of nations and aid organizations, we are engaged in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to three countries, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia, devastated by tsunamis after one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded.

This relief effort is rapidly becoming one of the largest humanitarian assistance efforts ever, and will require months, not weeks, to successfully resolve. Once again our Airmen, in concert with our colleagues in the Marine Corps, Navy, and Army, met the call of Operation Unified Assistance with a professionalism inspiring to watch.

Despite the disruption of many Christmas and New Year celebration plans, our Kadena Team immediately prepared and airlifted relief supplies, provided aerial reconnaissance of disaster sites, airlifted assessment teams into ravaged regions, established global communication capabilities, created a strategic airlift stage for jumbo aircraft, and deployed approximately 560 personnel with an impressive array of skills, nearly 1,700 short tons of supplies and equipment, 7 P-3, 6 MC-130, and 6 HH-60 aircraft. And you made it look like a typical week's work at Kadena...which is exactly what it was!

What you do routinely everyday is truly extraordinary! Never forget that. No other organization in the world can match your ability for mission accomplishment on short notice, and your actions clearly minimized further deaths and significantly reduced human suffering. Thank you for your fantastic efforts starting 2005 by nobly serving those in great need of assistance. It is an honor to work on such an incredible team!

As we look forward into 2005,



"What you do routinely everyday is truly extraordinary! Never forget that. No other organization in the world can match your ability for mission accomplishment on short notice, and your actions clearly minimized further deaths and significantly reduced human suffering."

challenges and opportunities abound. We can never forget we are in the profession of arms, tasked at Kadena with the defense of the mutual interests of the United States and Japan. Our citizens, those we protect, count on us — in this mission we can never fail. We are supporting today our Japanese military colleagues from the Japan Air Self Defense Force and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, hosting their air defense and air rescue alert while the Naha Airport runway is refurbished.

We will have several opportunities to interface with our Japanese allies in bilateral and multilateral exercises such as Keen Sword and Cooperative Cope Thunder. We will enhance regional stability by participating in exercises such as Cope Tiger in Thailand and Balikatan in the Philippines. And we'll keep our combat edge finely tuned by training intently every day and validating our training at RED FLAG and in our quarterly Local Operational Readiness Exercises.

This year we will improve our wingman culture. Everyone needs, and needs to be, a wingman. People are combat airpower. Our Airmen make sure No One Comes Close, so we need to take care of each other. Professional Airmen take care of themselves so their contributions to airpower are available for our Nation every day. And professional Airmen look out for other Airmen so those Airmen's contributions to airpower are available to our Nation daily.

Sadly, we lost an Airman this year...our Nation's combat airpower was degraded...and it was needless. This Airman chose to ride a motorcy-

cle after drinking alcohol at a local bar...he chose to not wear a helmet...he didn't make it home. Fortunately, no one else was injured. Many who knew him said he was a star performer on the job. Not anymore, because his airpower contributions will never again be on the job.

Did anyone know he rode a motorcycle without a helmet, and after drinking alcohol? If so, why did they tolerate this unnecessarily risky behavior? Why didn't wingmen intervene? Or did they intervene and were ignored, but didn't pursue tougher actions? In 2004, we also had 54 irresponsible Airmen who chose to selfishly operate a motor vehicle while inebriated, placing themselves, other Airmen, and our families at risk. Where were their wingmen?

Professionals are NEVER off the job. We volunteered for this job, we swore an oath to enter the profession of arms and defend our nation. Professionalism isn't defined by a clock or a location. We are a proud team of professional Airmen constantly doing awesome work for our nation.

Take care of each other. This year dedicate yourself to be a professional Airman 24 hours a day...demand it of the Airmen around you...do not tolerate those who can't be trustworthy wingmen. Be the best wingman you can be and listen to your wingman. Remember, you and your fellow Airmen are combat airpower.

On behalf of Brig. Gen. Jouas, who is deployed to Thailand orchestrating the air activity for Operation Unified Assistance relief efforts, we send our best wishes for you to enjoy a fantastic 2005! We are excited to serve with you this year providing unmatched combat airpower!



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Public Affairs Chief.....Maj. Michael Paoli
Deputy Public Affairs Chief.....Capt. Carlos Diaz
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For editorial submissions, send E-mail to kadenashogun.newspaper@kadena.af.mil.

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SHOGUN WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Senior Airman Steven T. Stacey

18th Civil Engineer Squadron, pavements and equipment journeyman

Hometown: Mansfield, Texas

Reason for nomination: Constructs, maintains, and repairs rigid and flexible pavements to include runways, taxiways, streets, sidewalks and parking lots on the largest base in the Pacific Air Forces.

Time at Kadena: 20 months

Editor's note: Shogun Warriors are selected by unit leaders for their outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the Kadena mission. To nominate someone, send the name of your nominee to your unit commander or senior enlisted leaders.



DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE: Did you know-- Binge drinking is considered five drinks in a row for men, and four for women?

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP: Turn off or turn down lights and use area lighting that's just right for what you do most often.

FLU SHOTS: Beginning Jan. 17, the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa and all branch medical clinics will offer flu shots for anyone wishing to receive the vaccination. Please report to your primary care clinic or contact Family Practice at 632-4272 to receive a shot or if you have additional questions concerning immunizations.

BIBLE STUDY: Kadena Protestant Women of the Chapel will host Tuesday Bible Studies at Chapel 1 starting Jan. 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. (childcare available) and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kelly Brown at 965-1868 or visit PWOC's website at <http://home.attmil.ne.jp/a/pwoc2>

BLOOD DRIVES: The U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa will be hosting a blood drive at the 18th Communications Squadron, Bldg. 400, from 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 19. ♦Donate blood at the Blood Donor Center everyday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Camp Lester, Bldg. 6017.

ESTATE CLAIMS: 2nd Lt. Darren L. Hill was appointed Summary Court Officer in the interest of Staff Sgt. Jacob Livingston. If there are any claims against the estate,

please contact Lieutenant Hill no later than Jan. 21 at 634-6766/8575 or by e-mail at Darren.hill@kadena.af.mil

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS: Anyone interested in auditioning for the Pacific Okinawa Players' production of Little Shop of Horrors should go to the Amelia Earhart Intermediate School Jan. 20 and 21 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Those auditioning need to prepare a song and be dressed to move. For more information, visit <http://www.pops-okinawa.org>.

NOISES OFF: Due to the relief effort and the unpredictability of the events that go along with it, it is with great disappointment that the Pacific Okinawa Players postpone the production of *Noises Off* to, as of this time, an undetermined date in the future.

KADENA TAX CENTER: The Tax Center will open Jan. 31 in Bldg. 1460, behind the Eagle Hardware store at 9 a.m. Assistance with filing taxes is available to all active duty military members, DOD civilians, eligible retirees and their families. Appointments are not being accepted at this time. Call 634-7418 for further information.

GATE CLOSURE: In February, Gate 1 will close and Gate 4, on the north side of Kadena, will open up to all traffic.

LORE BRIEFINGS: Scheduled briefings for the upcoming exercise will be held at the

Keystone Theater Feb. 8, 10, and 11 at 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

CONSTRUCTION: A construction project in the O'Donnell Gardens housing area will affect traffic until March 31. Civil engineer officials advise residents to plan accordingly.

RECALL OF SWIFFERS: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is recalling the Sweep plus Vac battery-operated vacuum cleaner by Swiffer. The vacuum stands about 4-feet-tall and has a green base and silver pole with the name "Swiffer" in white letters across the front of the base. The product was sold at AAFES stores from September 2004 through November 2004. Customers should return the product to AAFES for a full refund.

CAC APPOINTMENTS: The Navy Personnel Support Detachment now requires appointments for issuing, or updating ID cards. Appointments can be made at www.cfao.navy.mil (click on "CAC CARDS") or <https://es.cac.navy.mil>

LUNCH PROGRAM: Under the Lunch Plus program, students can purchase a second entree at the time of their lunch purchase for an additional .75 cents. Parents can put money for the extra entree on students' lunch accounts or students can pay the extra fee in cash. The price is the same for students who receive free or reduced lunch.

African-American heritage events

❖ The African American Culture Association will sponsor a Theatrical Fashion Show Dinner and Dance at The Palms on Camp Hansen Jan. 15 and 16. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30, dinner starts at 6:30 and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Dress to impress to receive prizes for the best dressed male and female. Tickets cost \$25-- advance only--with proceeds benefiting the scholarship winners. Call 633-3139 or 090-686-64-4140 for more information.

❖ The Kadena Officers Club will host a 60's and 70's Motown party Feb. 4 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Enjoy finger foods, prizes, and more, and enter the best 60's and 70's dress contest. The first two hundred people to arrive will qualify to win a Soulfood Basket. Tickets cost \$15 with proceeds benefiting the scholarships fund.

❖ The African American Culture Association will sponsor a "Music In My Soul" Dinner Show and Dance at the Kadena Officers' Club Feb. 19 to 21. Tickets cost \$25. Call 633-3139 or 090-686-64-4140 for more information.



COMPACAF shares air component commander perspective

By Maj. Brad McDonald
Headquarters Pacific Air Forces

HICKAM AFB, Hawaii – As Pacific Air Forces Commander, Gen. Paul V. Hester leads an organization of over 55,000 Airmen – officer, enlisted, and civilian. Recently, he outlined his vision and his priorities for the command, summed up in “Four P’s:”

- * Posture our forces
- * Prepare and Provide immediate and responsive combat capability
- * Promote regional security and stability
- * People – our greatest asset

Since taking command in July 2004, General Hester has logged more than 75,000 miles traveling throughout the command, visiting PACAF Airmen, praising them for an exceptional job, and spreading a consistent vision for the command’s future – firmly based on its mission.

The general outlined the PACAF mission in detail: to provide global vigilance, reach and power while defending the United States through air and space power in the Pacific. Specifically, PACAF provides warfighting capability to U.S. Pacific Command through integrated Expeditionary Air Force capabilities to defend the homeland, promote stability, deter aggression, and swiftly defeat adversaries.

In keeping with that mission, General Hester’s vision for PACAF is to “bring the full power of America’s Air Force and the skill of its Airmen to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region,” and that will be accomplished by attending to the “Four P’s.”

According to the general, the posturing of PACAF forces is the first critical aspect of supporting PACOM. PACAF is organizing a Warfighting Headquarters construct to provide a standing Joint Forces Air Component Commander who will be able to seamlessly fit into any Joint Task Force, as directed by the PACOM commander.

The WFHQ-Pacific structure will be a responsive and tailored command structure poised for any contingency, and it will demonstrate U.S. commitment to regional security as well. Other force-posturing initiatives on the horizon include the stationing of C-17s at both Hickam and Elmendorf Air Force Bases, and the addition of Intelligence, Sur-



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory
Gen. Paul Hester (center), Pacific Air Forces commander, visited various units throughout Kadena Oct. 21-24 as part of his initial visit to the base since he assuming command in July last year.

veillance, and Reconnaissance/Strike assets at Andersen AFB, Guam.

Preparing and Providing immediate and responsive combat capabilities is the second critical area of focus for General Hester, and to accomplish it, the command is leveraging the Aerospace Expeditionary Force concept in the Pacific region. The rotational bomber presence at Andersen AFB, which has been in place since February 2003, is one example of that expanded capability. Additionally, exercise Resultant Fury ’05 in November 2004 demonstrated the ability to engage and sink moving maritime targets from the air.

Promoting regional security and stability, the general’s third priority, is accomplished in part through joint exercises and conferences with Asian-Pacific nations. The Pacific Air Chief’s Conference in September 2004 brought together senior Air Force leaders from countries throughout the region, and such exercises as Cooperative Cope Thunder, held in July 2004 in Alaska, foster improved interoperability with our allies.

“It’s through opportunities such as these that personal relationships are forged, which makes our future coalitions much stronger and more effective,” General Hester said.

Finally, people are our greatest asset. The general strives to ensure that Airmen understand

their importance to the mission – and the importance of taking care of one another.

The general recently shared some thoughts on the subject during his first Commander’s Call. “I’ve seen the excitement in the eyes of our Airmen throughout PACAF,” he said. “Our Airmen represent the best our country has to offer. They’re motivated, and they’re proudly accomplishing America’s business in this most important region.”

The command and the larger Air Force face two challenges in particular – suicide and sexual assault – which negatively impact quality of life, the general said.

Suicide is a “permanent solution to temporary problems at home,” the general said. “Now, more than ever, there’s a need for each of us to take care of those we work with day-in and day-out. I firmly believe that we are a great Air Force in large part because “Air Force families lead Air Force families,” and as such, each of us as Airmen, need to be involved and in tune with our fellow Airmen...their families...and their needs.”

Sexual assault is likewise unacceptable. “We cannot have an environment where our Airmen feel threatened,” the general said. “Airmen need to take care of each other, and it is up to you to ensure our people know and understand the limits of what’s appropriate and inappropriate behavior. This issue has the effect of tearing apart the fiber of our teamwork.”

Overall, Airman morale is high, and the general intends to keep it that way. PACAF’s Airmen play a critical role as the force structure undergoes transformation.

“PACAF’s mission is being met from Eielson in the northern region of Alaska to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean,” he said. “PACAF Airmen are engaged in international, challenging missions ranging from tensions on the Korean Peninsula and the China-Taiwan Straits, to defending against transnational threats such as piracy, drug and human trafficking, all while supporting the Global War on Terrorism.”

As he looks toward the horizon, General Hester sees exciting and challenging times. “It is a privilege and blessing to serve as PACAF commander as we embark on the challenges ahead,” he said. “May God guard this command and guide the decisions each Airman has to make.”

RELIEF

Continued from Page 1

The next day six C-130 Hercules from Yokota AB, Japan arrived at Kadena to load supplies and await orders for further travel.

For two days after the disaster, the U.S. government worked with regional governments to coordinate basing locations and requirements, while Kadena tanker and helicopter crews waited on alert status.

Finally, on Dec 29, orders came down to launch two alert Air Force KC-135 Stratotankers from Kadena to carry disaster relief assessment teams, from Okinawa’s III Marine Expeditionary Force, into Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Sri Lanka mission also carried an airfield assessment team from the 613th Contingency Response Group based at Andersen AFB, Guam.

These Airmen and Marines brought the first American support into those countries, and discovered more commonalities than differences with their host-nation counterparts.

“We’ve never seen tiki torches lighting taxiways,” said MSgt Steven Flax, boom operator on the first Sri Lanka mission. “But it was a hero’s welcome.”

“We showed up in the middle of the night, and the Sri Lanka military was waiting to offload our cargo and get the relief missions going. We were talking

to guys carrying AK-47s—and they were super cool to us.”

That same day Kadena’s 353rd Special Operations Group launched an MC-130 Combat Talon and C-130 Hercules to Bangkok carrying mission planners, maintainers, and a contingent from 18th Security Forces, in addition to supplies.

Two more KC-135s launched early the next morning, Dec. 30, to Thailand carrying 50,000 pounds of water and meals-ready-to-eat. Two more MC-130s quickly followed, carrying a terminal air-lift control element, combat controllers and medics.

Kadena’s first unit deployment began Jan. 2 when two C-17s from McChord AFB, Wash., carrying “folded” HH-60 Pavahawks belonging to the 33rd Rescue Squadron, landed in Sri Lanka. The unit began flying relief missions the next day, and four more HH-60s soon joined the effort. On Sunday alone the unit flew seven missions, transporting 12,500 pounds of vital supplies to people in dire need of their continuing aid.

Currently, more than 1,500 Airmen are deployed to Operation Unified Assistance. They are part of more than 13,000 U.S. service members involved in the global operation, according to the U.S. Pacific Command. \$20 billion in U.S. military assets are also involved, with a cost to U.S. taxpayers of \$5 to \$6 million each day. This is in addition to an initial \$350 million pledged by President Bush to the multinational relief effort.



Photos by Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Hunk-ta Bunk-ta band entertains base youth

TOP: Katherine Dines (right) sings a song with Dennis O'Hanlon accompanying her on the bass guitar. The duo are part of the Hunk-ta Bunk-ta band, who are on a three-week tour of Okinawa. More than 90 Kadena children and family members attended the concert.

RIGHT: Katherine Dines, sings a solo to children at the Youth Center Jan. 7. Ms. Dines is a Parents' Choice Award winner and also has a Grammy nomination.





Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Members of the 2004 Tops in Blue, perform proudly at Kadena's Keystone Theater last weekend. This is Tops in Blue's 51st world tour. The team tours for nine months and performs about 120 shows in about 114 locations worldwide.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

ABOVE: Airman 1st Class Michelle Duque sings her heart out on stage with other members of Tops in Blue at the Keystone Theater.

RIGHT: Senior Airman Christian Martinez (left) and other members of Tops in Blue, sing Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" during their performance. The song has become a tradition for Tops in Blue sung along with the Air Force song at the end of each show.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Try out for the team

Active duty Airmen interested in participating in the 2005 Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest can pick up an application at the Schilling Community Center. Individuals entered in the contest may be selected for this year's Tops in Blue team. If selected for Tops in Blue, the applicant will be on permissive TDY status for the 11-month tour retaining regular pay and career field job series. Team members will also receive daily personal expense allowance to offset road trip costs. The contest will be held March 6-14 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Entries are due to Headquarters Air Force Services Agency no later than Feb. 4. For more information, call Jon Boyd at 634-0168.

Overseas returnee assignment listing now available

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for people returning from overseas and CONUS mandatory movers from May through July is now available.

Individuals need to work through their military personnel flights or their commander's support staff to

update their preferences by Jan. 25. Deployed personnel must work with their PERSCO representative to update assignment preferences. Airmen will be notified of their selection by mid-February, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements, by Air

Force specialty code and rank. People should review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the EQUAL list.

People can view the lists from the AFPC home page at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amswweb/master.cfm> or at their local MPF.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Michael Farris
KATUNAYAKE AIR FORCE BASE, Sri Lanka – Senior Airman Jeff Layton, a 33rd Rescue Squadron aerial gunner, races toward an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter during relief operations here Jan. 11.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory
POUTTUVILLE, Sri Lanka – Tech. Sgt. Keith Kolb, 33rd Rescue Squadron, unloads hygiene kits to local Sri Lankan aid workers and Red Cross volunteers Jan. 9.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Michael Farris
BANDA ACEH, Indonesia – Kadena loadmasters guide a Spanish Red Cross support vehicle off an MC-130H Combat Talon Jan. 10.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Michael Farris
BANDA ACEH, Indonesia – A 1st Special Operations Squadron pilot waits for a response from air traffic control to clear his plane for takeoff into Malaysian airspace Jan. 4.



UTAPAO, Thailand
18th Communications Squadron operates a satellite dish during tsunami relief operations.

OPERATION UNIT

TIMELINE



Dec. 26, 2004

An undersea 9.0 magnitude earthquake off the northwestern coast of Indonesia produced a tsunami with waves up to 50 feet high. More than 270,000 people living in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and several other countries were killed by flash flooding and more than 5 million people were left homeless.



Dec. 29, 2004

After three days on alert status, Kadena units mobilized to carry disaster relief teams from Okinawa's III Marine Expeditionary Force to Sri Lanka and Thailand aboard two 909th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotankers. Members of the 353rd Special Operations Group also deployed with relief supplies to Bangkok, Thailand aboard two MC-130 aircraft.





c. 30, 2004

Kadena KC-135 Stratotankers deployed to Thailand carrying 50,000 of water and meals ready-to-eat. MC-130 aircraft also deployed carrying a terminal airlift control element, combat controllers and medics.



Jan. 2, 2005

Kadena's first unit deployment to Southeast Asia kicked off with two C-17s from McChord Air Force Base, Wash. carrying HH-60 Pave Hawks from the 33rd Rescue Squadron to Sri Lanka. The 33rd RQS began flying relief missions the next day as four more HH-60s arrived.



Present

More than 380 Kadena Airmen are currently deployed to Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand in support of Operation Unified Assistance.

The Okinawa Perspective

Compiled from
staff reports

The following is a synopsis of articles that appeared recently in Japanese newspapers.

□ According to a nationwide survey conducted late last year, Okinawa has one of the worst seat belt records in Japan. A study by the Japan Auto Foundation and Metropolitan Police found that 84.6 percent of Okinawa drivers use seat belts. The national average was 90.7 percent. The statistics were worse for passenger seat belt use. Only 69.9 percent of Okinawan passengers buckle up versus the nation's 78.5 percent average.

□ A Japan Air Self Defense Force C-130 carrying 40 JASDF airmen was dispatched to Thailand Jan. 6 to provide tsunami disaster relief. Japan also plans to send approximately 200 Japan Ground Self Defense Force troops as well as 3 ships with approximately 600 sailors.

□ Anbigo Yamauchi Antonio was arrested Jan 4 on charges of attempted murder. Antonio confessed to authorities that he stabbed a 718th Civil Engineer Squadron local national employee at Camp Kinser.

□ Yoko Yamaguchi, a 64-year-old woman who held a hunger strike in front of the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau from late November until late December, has started her strike once again. According to media reports, the woman is protesting surveys being conducted off the coast of Nago City to prepare for the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

□ Okinawa Prefectural Government officials recently released a draft list organizing U.S. military bases into three categories (A-C). According to media reports, MCAS Futenma, Camps Schwab and Hansen, and Torii Station are listed as top priority for return back to Japan (A). Kadena Air Base, Camps Courtney, McToureaux and Zukeran were categorized as priorities for force reduction (B).

□ Base officials announced plans to relocate Kadena's rinse facility for large aircraft within the next few years. The rinse facility has been scrutinized by local officials for spraying water over Kadena's perimeter onto houses and businesses off base.

'The Big 20'

Japan welcomes newest adults with holiday



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower
LADIES: Sakura Tamae, Kazue Ohya and Minori Ando gather with hundreds of other 20-year-old Japanese residents to celebrate Coming of Age Day at Okinawa City Hall Sunday. Coming of Age Day is a Japanese holiday that celebrates people reaching age 20, which is the age Japanese residents can vote, drink alcohol, and get married without parental consent. The average cost for a Furisode that women wear for the occasion ranges from \$1,500 to \$7,000. Furisodes can also cost up to \$2,000 just to rent.
GENTLEMEN: Tsubasa Uechi, Toshi Gushiken and Gen Sadoyama pose for a photo Sunday. Males usually have two choices of dress for the ceremony - a western style tuxedo, or Haori Hakama (center). The cost for a Haori Hakama is much less than a Furisode, ranging from \$300 to \$1,000. More than 20,000 people celebrated the holiday this year.

"Ask Eiko" is a forum for readers to ask Japanese cultural questions to Kadena's family support center's cultural awareness expert, Eiko Ishikawa. To submit a question, send an e-mail to ask.eiko@kadena.af.mil.

Q: I've heard that the New Year is big in Japan.

What did Japanese people do during and after the New Year?



A: O-Sho-Gatsu (The Opening Month) is for many Japanese a major period of activity. We place a braided straw decoration (shimenowa) on the front gate or door for New Year's. Some folks place smaller ones on the front of their cars. While these vary in design, they almost always contain an orange-colored fruit to indicate the wish for prosperity for generations, seaweed to indicate the wish for happiness for the family, and red and white diagonal folded paper to indicate the wish for good luck. The long straws indicate a wish for health and long life. The very fancy ones may also have a gold string or the paper will be edged in gold.

Many families also place rice-cake (mochi) decorations in

the place of honor in their house. These, too, will normally have an orange or tangerine, and the red and white paper. This is an offering to the New Year's kami (god) and holds the same wishes for prosperity, happiness, health, and long life for the family.

We also have New Year's parties, but normally not on New Year's Eve. Many of us have two New Year's parties. One, called bonenkai (kill the year party), is held before New Year's and is to celebrate the good times from the previous year, but mostly to kill (or bury) the bad times. The second party, called shinnenkai (literally New Year's Party), is held after New Year's Day, normally in the first 6-10 days in January, to welcome the New Year and to wish for success and happiness throughout the year.

Some people party on New Year's Eve just like Americans. Others spend time with extended family gatherings. As midnight approaches, there is a tradition of eating soba (noodles) as the long noodles are indicative of long life. At midnight, we set off fireworks and ring temple bells. The noise of the fireworks is intended to drive off any evil spirits who are trying to sneak into the new year with us. Most of the resort hotels have superb fireworks displays.

The temple bells are traditionally rung 108 times to eliminate the 108 kinds of sins and delusions of human beings. In the olden days, the New Year's Eve celebration would culminate with everyone staying up all night to welcome the arrival of the first sun of the year. Here on Okinawa, many people go to Hedo Point to do the same.

New Year's Day is time for families. Almost everyone will have specially prepared foods ready to serve not only families, but guests that may drop by the home. Neighbors traditionally visit each other to extend wishes for a healthy, safe, and prosperous year. If there are small children in the household, they are given a small gift of money called an otoshidama. When I was a child, our otoshidama wasn't money, but something useful, like a pencil or notebook for school.

Today

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BRUNCH: At the Kadena Officers' Club from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Kudaka Room.

DJ CLUB: Teens can learn how to DJ with King Freeze and Ja StiKz from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Teen Center. They can show you how to spin and how to keep a party jumpin'.

GROUP TENNIS LESSONS: Kadena Tennis Center offers lessons for all levels of play for anyone ages 5 or older. Adults \$35, children \$30 for four one-hour lessons. Call **634-0695** or **634-3157** for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9 to 18 are invited to bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at Emery Lanes. Children ages 10 and older need only show an ID card to join. All 9-year-olds must be signed in by a parent. Pick up forms available at the front desk to enroll your child(ren) in this program. Call **634-3663**.

THUNDER BOWL: Come on down to Emery Lanes from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. where you can rock and dance into the night with Rock 300 live music.

KUMON MATH: Children ages five to 18 years can learn to excel in math and develop superior study habits from 3 to 5:40 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

NIGHT OWL BINGO: Play bingo at the Rocker NCO Club. Card sales begin at 9:30, play starts at 10:30 p.m.

ALMOST NUTS BAND: They're wild, they're wacky and they're live at the Banyan Tree Club from 8 to 11 p.m.

VIRUS FRIDAZE: Enjoy Reggae Vibes Virus at the Banyan Tree Club from 10 p.m. to closing.

Saturday

PET ADOPTION DAY: Celebrate the start of the New Year by adding a four-legged friend to your family. Visit and play with the dogs awaiting homes and take your pet home that day, or pick them up later at Karing Kennels. Call **632-4062** for more information.

DIGITAL ARTS CLUB: The Teen Center Millennium has new state-of-the-art equipment and software. Join the Digital Arts Program and prepare for digital arts festivals, which allow members a chance to enter their original works in national competitions from 1 to 2 p.m. Members can enter in web design, graphic design, photo manipulation, music making, and movie making. Call **634-3866** for more information.

TANGERINE PICKING TOUR: Call ITT for more information at **634-4322**.

TABLETOP WARRIORS CLUB: Join the Schilling Community Center for great tabletop gaming from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. If you're unsure how to play, we'll show you.

MACHINE PATCHWORK QUILTING CLASS: From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL TOUR: Call ITT for more information at **634-4322**.

ALMOST NUTS BAND: They're wild, they're wacky and they're live at the Rocker NCO Club from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

PIANO EXTRAVAGANZA: Youth Programs School of Arts presents Winter Wonderland, where pianists from the School of Arts perform their way to stardom at the Schilling Community Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call **634-3866** for more details.

CARD AND COMIC SHOW: Buy, trade, or sell comics, cards and other collectables at the Schilling Community Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Vendor tables are \$5 on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call **634-1387** for more details.

SAX, FLUTE, CLARINET LESSONS: One-hour sessions from 7 a.m. to noon at the Schilling Community Center for ages five years and up. Call **634-1387**.

WESTERN NIGHT: Throw on your cowboy boots and hat and wrangle your way to the Kadena Officers' Club from 6 p.m. to midnight.

ROCKER RENEGADES OF ROCK: Enjoy classic to present day rock hits and Super Ladies Night in the ballroom at the Rocker NCO Club Lounge from 9 p.m. to

close.

BRING YOUR PARTY TO OUR PARTY: Celebrating a special occasion in January? Call the Rocker NCO Club at **634-0063** and find out how you can book your party for eight or more people to coincide with our party on this fun-filled evening. Super Ladies Night will also be held at this time.

SUPER LADIES NIGHT: Watch as the Super Ladies Night Miss January 2005 will be crowned from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the Rocker NCO Club Lounge. Open to club members and authorized guests only.

Sunday

SHURI CASTLE AND SHIKINA-EN TOUR: Call ITT for more information at **634-4322**.

FAMILY DAY: Games are \$1 each for parents and children that bowl together at Emery Lanes from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. A three game limit may apply.

OKINAWA CRAFTS EXPLORATION TOUR: Call ITT for more information at **634-4322**.

Monday

50-CENT BOWLING: Low on cash? Participate in Emery Lanes January Broke after Christmas special for 50 cents per game from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JAPANESE CONVERSATION: Adults can make friends with Okinawan neighbors by learning their customs, culture and language from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

GROUP TENNIS LESSONS: Kadena Tennis Center offers lessons for all levels of play for anyone ages 5 or older. Adults \$35, children \$30 for four one-hour lessons. Call **634-0695** or **634-3157** for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9 to 18 are invited to bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at Emery Lanes. Children ages 10 and older need only show an ID card to join. All 9-year-olds must be signed in by a parent. Pick up forms available at the front desk to enroll your child(ren) in this program. Call **634-3663**.

CAKE DECORATING: Learn the techniques for mastering the basics of cake decoration from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

Tuesday

TAI CHI CH'UAN: For ages 18 years and up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

PARENT EMPOWERMENT POTLUCK: Youth Programs is sponsoring a series of Parent Education Workshops that offer simple, hands-on-advice on how to be a more effective, less frustrated parent. Join them at the Kadena Youth Center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to explore DARE Parent Education Program. Call **634-0500** or **634-3866** for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9 to 18 are invited to bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at Emery Lanes. Children ages 10 and older need only show an ID card to join. All 9-year-olds must be signed in by a parent. Pick up forms available at the front desk to enroll your child(ren) in this program. Call **634-3663**.

Wednesday

TEA CEREMONY TOUR: Call ITT for more information at **634-4322**.

OKINAWA DANCE: Enhance your stay on Okinawa by learning traditional expressive dance forms unique to the island from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

AFTER SCHOOL FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9 to 18 are invited to bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at Emery Lanes. Children ages 10 and older need only show an ID card to join. All 9-year-olds must

Pizza, Pins, Pop



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower Evan Purkey, 10, son of Tech. Sgt. James Purkey, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron NCO in charge of horizontal construction, aims for a strike at Kadena's Emery Lanes Jan. 6. Emery Lanes is introducing its "Three P's" Thursday. Every Thursday in January from 5 to 11 p.m. customers can get a large pizza, four large soda 'pops' and 'pins'--four shoe rentals and 12 games of bowling--for only \$30.

be signed in by a parent. Pick up forms available at the front desk to enroll your child(ren) in this program. Call **634-3663**.

KUMON MATH: Children ages 5 to 18 can learn to excel in math and develop superior study habits from 3 to 5:40 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

JAPANESE CONVERSATION: Adults can make friends with Okinawan neighbors by learning their customs, culture and language from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

RIBS-DAY: Enjoy barbeque ribs with rice and a small garden salad in the Banyan Tree Club Snack Bar for just \$5.95.

Thursday

PIZZA, PINS, POP: Emery Lanes is introducing the three P's for January: a large pizza, four shoe rentals, and 12 games of bowling for \$30.

JAPANESE CONVERSATION: Adults can make friends with Okinawan neighbors by learning their customs, culture and language from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

GROUP TENNIS LESSONS: Kadena Tennis Center offers lessons for all levels of play for anyone ages 5 or older. Adults \$35, children \$30 for four one-hour lessons. Call **634-0695** or **634-3157** for more information.

50-CENT BOWLING: Low on cash? Participate in Emery Lanes January Broke after Christmas special for 50 cents per game from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY: An understanding of Japanese calligraphy is important to learning about the Japanese culture. Each piece of writing created in the class, will vary from individual to individual as you are encouraged to bring the words to life yourself, making each work of art a true

original. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

URASHIMA DINNER THEATER TOUR: Call ITT for more information at **634-4322**.

AFTER SCHOOL FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9 to 18 are invited to bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at Emery Lanes. Children ages 10 and older need only show an ID card to join. All 9-year-olds must be signed in by a parent. Pick up forms available at the front desk to enroll your child(ren) in this program. Call **634-3663**.

TAI CHI CH'UAN: For ages 18 and up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

Friday

RIGHT HAND PERSONS

DAY: Bring your spouse or co-worker (your right hand person) to the Officers' Club from 5 to 7 p.m. as a way to say "thank you" for all they do.

GROUP TENNIS LESSONS: Kadena Tennis Center offers lessons for all levels of play for anyone ages 5 or older. Adults \$35, children \$30 for four one-hour lessons. Call **634-0695** or **634-3157** for more information.

KUMON MATH: Children ages 5 to 18 years can learn to excel in math and develop superior study habits from 3 to 5:40 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

AFTER SCHOOL FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9 to 18 are invited to bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at Emery Lanes. Children ages 10 and older need

only show an ID card to join. All 9-year-olds must be signed in by a parent. Pick up forms available at the front desk to enroll your child(ren) in this program. Call **634-3663**.

VIRUS FRIDAZE: Enjoy Top 40 Virus at the Banyan Tree Club from 10 p.m. to closing.

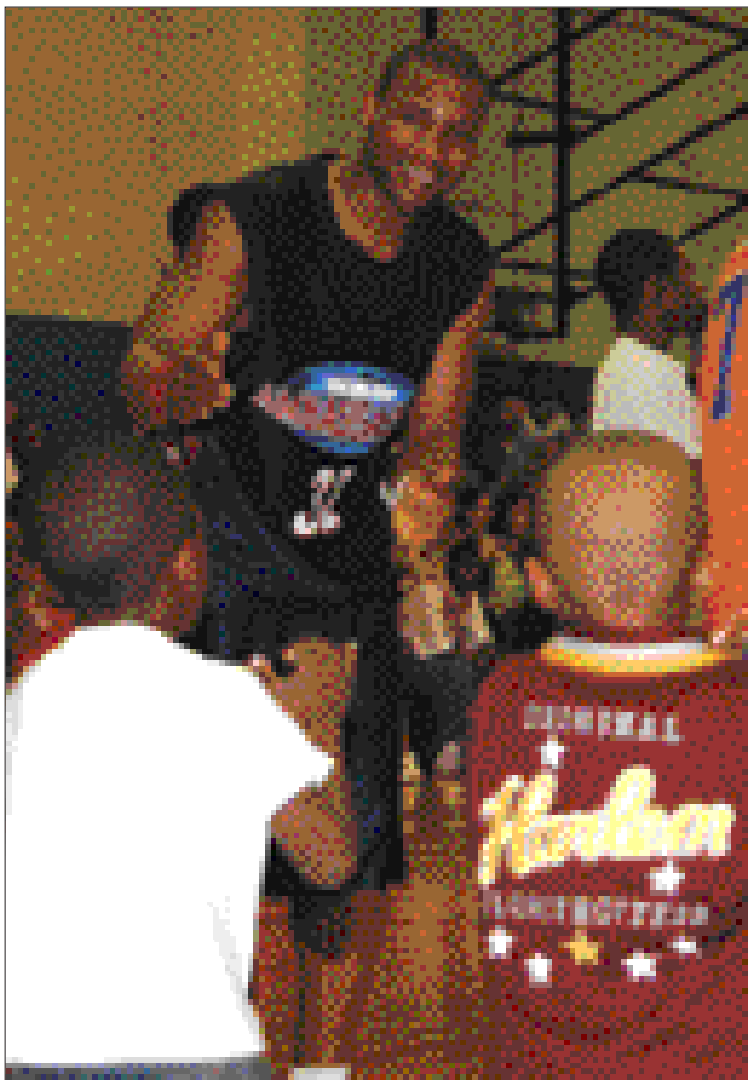
BACK THAT FRIDAY UP PARTY: All the best from the 80's and 90's at the Rocker NCO Club Lounge from 9 p.m. to closing.

NIGHT OWL BINGO: Play bingo at the Rocker NCO Club. Card sales begin at 9:30, play starts at 10:30 p.m.

Jan. 22

MOTOBU CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL TOUR: Call ITT for more information at **634-4322**.

M O V I E S	
Patrons should call Keystone Theater at 634-1869 or Butler Theater at 645-3465 to verify movie titles, showtimes and ratings.	
Keystone Theater	
▲ Today.....	Spongebob Squarepants, PG, 6 p.m.
▲ Saturday.....	Spanglish, PG-13, 9 p.m.
▲ Sunday.....	National Treasure, PG, noon
▲ Monday.....	Spongebob Squarepants, PG, 4 p.m.
▲ Tuesday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
▲ Wednesday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
▲ Thursday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
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▲ Friday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
▲ Saturday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
▲ Sunday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
▲ Monday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
▲ Tuesday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
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▲ Sunday.....	Seed of Chucky, R, 7 p.m.
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Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Harlem Ambassadors amaze Kadena youth

REBOUND: Maurice "Mo" Turner #34 of the Harlem Ambassadors, rebounds the ball after teammate Michael "Wonder Mike" Hamelin #32 misses a shot for the basket during a "just for fun" basketball game against the Kadena Falcons at the Falcon Fitness Center Dec. 20. The Harlem Ambassadors sold merchandise and signed autographs after the game.

MINY HARLEM AMBASSADOR: Michael "Wonder Mike" Hamelin #32 of the Harlem Ambassadors, teaches children how to do the Cha Cha slide during halftime at the Falcon Fitness Center. The Harlem Ambassadors performed for a crowd of more than 500 military and family members.

BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Division I	W	L
18th AMXS	2	0
18th SVS	1	0
733rd AMS	1	1
18th CMS	1	0
18th CS	1	0
18th SFS	1	0
18th EMS (A)	0	1
18th EMS (B)	0	1
VP-8	0	1
18th LRS (A)	0	1
18th CES (C)	0	1
18th CES (A)	-	-
Division II	W	L
18th MOS	2	0
18th CES (B)	1	1
18th CES (D)	1	1
18th LRS (B)	1	1
18th AMDS/DS	1	0
353rd OSS	1	0
82nd RS	1	0
18th OSS	0	1
18th CONS	0	1
961st AACs	0	1
390th IS	0	1
554th RHS	0	1

Upcoming games

Today

Game

- 1 Youngbloodz vs. Okinawa City
6 p.m., at the Falcon
- 2 Heat vs. Aladdin Motors
7 p.m. at the Falcon
- 3 Kadena vs. Osan
8 p.m. at the Falcon
- 4 Spotlight vs. Truth
9 p.m. at the Falcon

Saturday

- 5 Youngbloodz vs. Kadena
9 a.m. at the Falcon
- 6 Spotlight vs. Aladdin Motor's
9 a.m. at the Risner
- 7 Okinawa City vs. Osan
10 a.m. at the Falcon
- 8 Truth vs. Heat
10 a.m. at the Risner
- 9 Kadena vs. Okinawa City
11:30 a.m. at the Falcon
- 10 Spotlight vs. Heat
11:30 a.m. at the Risner
- 11 Osan vs. Youngbloodz
12:30 p.m. at the Falcon
- 12 Truth vs. Aladdin Motors
12:30 p.m. at the Risner

Information last updated Jan. 10 by 18th Services Squadron.

Kadena bobsledder aim for Olympics

By Senior Airman Anna Fitzhorn
18th Wing Public Affairs

Whizzing down Kadena's snow capped mountains at 90 miles per hour, Michael Bradley shuts his eyes against the brisk chill and enjoys the rush of his favorite sport—bobsledding.

Ok. That's a stretch. Though Kadena may not be the ideal locale for the winter sport of bobsledding, Bradley has to keep up on practice in order to try out for the Olympics.

The 909th Air Refueling Squadron life support troop is gearing up for trying for a spot in the 2006 Olympic team trials.

Bradley was selected to be part of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program. WCAP is a two-year program that provides Air Force personnel the opportunity to train and compete at national and international sports competitions with the ultimate goal of selection to the United States Olympic team. Candidates must remain competitive for an Olympic team position to remain in the program, which ends with the Olympic trials or after competing with the national team at the Olympics.

"When I found out about the WCAP, which would keep me sled-ding during my military career—I realized this would be the best deal for me," explained the Airman, who's been bobsledding since age 12.

"I'm happy to be able to serve my country and train in a sport I love,"

he said.

Tropical island weather year round and beaches may be the reason why some people come to Kadena; but for Bradley, training for his favorite sport on Okinawa is not a viable option.

Fortunately, his unit and commander support of his abilities by allowing him to go TDY to train and compete.

"I've been so impressed by the support that I've received from my shop and my commander," he said. "I couldn't be happier."

Not having the novelty of ice or a sled, the 5-foot 11-inch Rhode Island native must crank out his fair share of personal training. Off-season at Kadena, Bradley hits the gym as much as possible and does sprints at night when it's cooler.

Training during the season is a lot more intense. "It's pretty heavy," explained Bradley. "I lift four times a week, do sprint drills three times a week, and do two to three runs down the ice five times a week."

He does all this for a sixty-second ride down a chute of ice. Airmen Bradley describes the experience as going out into the freezing cold,



Courtesy Photo

Michael Bradley (left), poses with John Caponio at Lake Placid during the team trials. Bradley, an Airman with the 909th Air Refueling Squadron will have his next race Jan. 25 and 26.

sprinting as fast as you can while pushing a sled weighing about 440 pounds (for a two-person sled) or approximately 600 pounds (for a four-person sled), then sliding down an ice track a mile long at 80 miles per hour. Through all that he has to stay focused on having a clean, fast run.

"It's a rush, better than any roller-coaster," said Bradley. "It's a feeling you can't get anywhere else."

Good luck Airmen Bradley, Team Kadena hopes to see you at the Olympics next year!